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APHIS Facts

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Don't Move Gypsy Moth

Planning to move from a State infested with gypsy moth to one not infested? You need to know that all outdoor household items moved from high-risk areas into or through nonregulated areas must be free of gypsy moth life stages--eggs, caterpillars, pupae, and adults.

This means that you, the owner of the items about to be moved, are responsible, by law, for making sure you are not moving a serious pest along with your outdoor household articles.

WHY REGULATION IS NEEDED

Certain areas infested with gypsy moths--generally the infested Northeastern States--have been designated as posing a high risk as a source for moving gypsy moths to new areas. Check the attached map to see if you live in a high-risk area.

If you do, you know the damage gypsy moths can cause. The leaf-eating caterpillars defoliate trees and shrubs, giving summer scenes a barren winter look. In 1981, the last peak year of gypsy moth numbers, their voracious caterpillars defoliated more than 13 million acres of trees.

Where heavy gypsy moth populations exist, caterpillars cause aggravation and annoyance--crawling on homes, littering lawn furniture and pools, and making outdoor activities miserable. In addition, controlling gypsy moths adds to the cost of home ownership and increases your tax bill.

Recent studies show that most isolated infestations of the gypsy moth started from egg masses transported on articles accessible to the female

moth at egg-laying time. People glad to be leaving the annoyance and cost of living with the gypsy moth unintentionally took along their egg masses--to hatch and spread far from their old neighborhood. The egg masses (and possibly other life stages of the moth) traveled along on garbage cans, lawn furniture, childrens' toys, and other items kept or used out of doors.

You can make sure you aren't a gypsy moth "carrier" by thoroughly inspecting the outdoor household articles you plan to move, or by hiring a USDA-trained commercial expert to do the inspection for you. Either way, you are the key to helping prevent the spread of the gypsy moth. Don't move an old pest to a new neighborhood.

TWO WAYS TO INSPECT FOR GYPSY MOTH

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) works with the States to monitor movement of outdoor household articles out of heavily infested areas. The moving goods must be accompanied by a document from a certified pesticide applicator or the certificate of self-inspection printed in this factsheet.

If you feel capable of detecting gypsy moth life stages, you may decide to inspect your outdoor household articles yourself. (This publication will help you.) Or else, you may employ a trained pesticide applicator certified by USDA.

Be aware that, regardless of who does the inspection, you are responsible for making sure your outdoor items don't move the gypsy moth. How you do this is your decision.

Federal and State officials may check your goods before departure, en route, or after arrival to be sure they are free of the pest. Fines may be imposed if the pest is found on the goods and a certificate of inspection, obtained prior to the move, is not with the goods.

PROFESSIONAL INSPECTION

Participating applicators may advertise locally, or you may contact one of the information sources listed in this publication for a list of USDA-trained pesticide applicators. The applicators will inspect your outdoor household articles and treat them if necessary.

Applicators are authorized to issue a certificate stating that your goods are free of gypsy moth. This certificate satisfies the requirements of all uninfested States and will relieve you of liability should your items be inspected and found to contain gypsy moth. The certificate must be issued within 5 days of your departure.

DO-IT-YOURSELF INSPECTION

You may want to consider inspecting your own goods if you plan to move only a few outdoor items, or don't live near a certified professional offering this service. If you decide to do the inspecting yourself, you must know what to inspect.

Generally, anything accessible to a gypsy moth caterpillar should be inspected. Any article left outdoors, stored in areas open to the outside, or articles stored indoors but that have been used outdoors should be inspected.

If you do your own inspection, complete the checklist below, including the date and place inspected, and sign it at the bottom. This will be your official certificate of self-inspection. Be sure the list is with the paperwork accompanying your move.

MAKE SURE THIS CHECK LIST GOES WITH YOUR GOODS WHEN YOU MOVE:

Check List and Record of Your Do-It-Yourself Inspection

Date _____

Place Inspected _____

Recreational or Camping Items

- | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backpacks | <input type="checkbox"/> Campers | <input type="checkbox"/> Tarps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball backboards | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice chests | <input type="checkbox"/> Tents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boats | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles | <input type="checkbox"/> Waders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boat trailers | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports equipment | |

Household Items

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air conditioners | <input type="checkbox"/> Ladders | <input type="checkbox"/> Trash cans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barrels | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor thermometers | <input type="checkbox"/> TV antennae |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cardboard and wooden boxes | <input type="checkbox"/> Sheets of plastic | <input type="checkbox"/> Used refrigerators |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clothespin bags | <input type="checkbox"/> Shutters | <input type="checkbox"/> Washing machines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Firewood | <input type="checkbox"/> Storage sheds | <input type="checkbox"/> Water hoses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> House plants taken outside during the summer | <input type="checkbox"/> Storm and screen doors and windows | <input type="checkbox"/> Weather vanes |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Tanks for propane and oil | <input type="checkbox"/> Window awnings |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Building Materials

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bricks | <input type="checkbox"/> Lumber | <input type="checkbox"/> Water pipes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cinder blocks | <input type="checkbox"/> Roofing materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Welding equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cement mixing tubs | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer pipes | <input type="checkbox"/> Workbenches |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Tools | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Yard and Garden Items

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal houses | <input type="checkbox"/> Fertilizer spreaders | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowblowers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barbecue grills | <input type="checkbox"/> Flagpoles | <input type="checkbox"/> Storage sheds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birdbaths | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden tillers | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming pools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birdfeeders | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawnmowers | <input type="checkbox"/> Trees and shrubs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birdhouses | <input type="checkbox"/> Mailboxes | <input type="checkbox"/> Trellis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buglights | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic tables | <input type="checkbox"/> Yard decorations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carts | <input type="checkbox"/> Porch or patio furniture | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheelbarrows |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coldframes | <input type="checkbox"/> Signs and posts | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Driftwood | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fencing | | |

Children's Playthings

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycles | <input type="checkbox"/> Sleds | <input type="checkbox"/> Tire swings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playhouses | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming pools | <input type="checkbox"/> Wagons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sandboxes | <input type="checkbox"/> Swing sets | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Other Items

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Car body parts | <input type="checkbox"/> Cars and trucks that are not driven regularly | <input type="checkbox"/> Plant nursery items |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Car ramps | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm items | <input type="checkbox"/> Stored tires (snow tires) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Signature _____

GYPSY MOTH LIFE STAGES

The gypsy moth goes through four stages of development--egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (cocoon), and moth. It has one generation a year.

Overwintering egg masses are attached to trees, stones, walls, logs, and other outdoor household articles. Each egg mass contains up to 1,000 eggs and is covered with buff or yellowish hairs from the abdomen of the female. The velvety egg masses average about 1 1/2 inches long and about 3/4 inch wide, but may be as small as a dime.

Eggs begin hatching between mid-April and early May. The greyish, hairy caterpillars are easy to identify when about half-grown by pairs of red and blue dots on their backs. Mature caterpillars are from 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 inches long.

Caterpillars enter the pupal or "cocoon" stage in late June or early July, emerging from their dark-brown pupal cases in 10 to 14 days as adults. Males have greyish-brown wings and a 1 1/2 inch wingspread. Female moths are white with a wing-spread similar to that of the male.

Adult moths do not feed, but only mate and lay eggs. Eggs are laid between July and September, depending on weather and location.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND GYPSY MOTHS

Scrape egg masses from their location with a putty knife or similar flat-edged tool. Remove other life stages by hand. Dispose of them in a container of hot water, household bleach, ammonia, kerosene, or creosote.

Gypsy moth hairs, found attached to all life stages, can cause people who are allergic to them to have skin rashes or respiratory reactions. If necessary, wear gloves, protective clothing, and a dust mask.

Here is an important caution:

Once you have inspected, prevent the outdoor items you intend to move from being reinfested by caterpillars or egg-laying adults.

Some items may not be worth the trouble to move. Consider leaving behind such items as old cinder blocks, firewood, and rusty play equipment that may be heavily infested and will be of little value to you in your new location.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

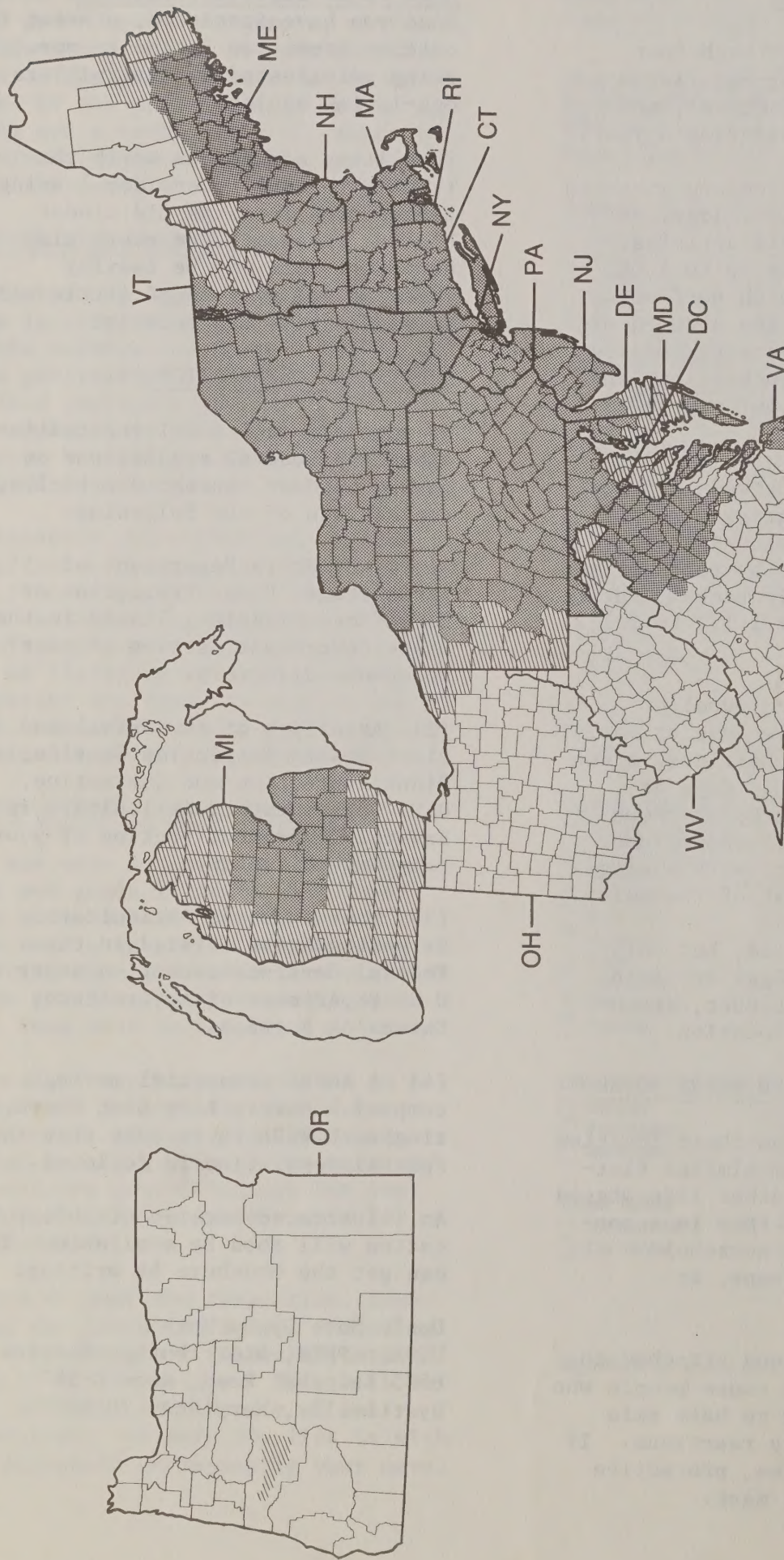
If you need additional information about the Federal regulations on moving outdoor household articles, contact one of the following:



- (1) Your State Department of Agriculture, Plant Protection or Regulatory Division, listed in the State Government section of your telephone directory.
- (2) An office of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine, U.S. Department of Agriculture in the Federal Government Section of your telephone directory.
- (3) Your county's Agricultural Extension Agent, listed in the Federal Government section under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Extension Service.
- (4) A local commercial moving company. Movers have been cooperating with USDA to be sure that the Federal regulation is followed.

An illustrated version of this publication will soon be available. You can get the brochure by writing:

Don't Move Gypsy Moth
USDA, APHIS, Distribution Service
6505 Belcrest Road, Room G-187
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782

Gypsy Moth Regulated Area



-  High Risk Area — Movement from dark gray into or through white, inspection is required.
-  Low Risk Area — Movement into or through any other area, inspection is not required.